File

faculty NEWSLETTER

SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Vol. IV **No.** 5 **Montreal, Quebec** **Date** December, 1962.

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR"

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This opportunity to extend greetings to all members of the faculty and staff is very much appreciated. The growth and development of any institution depends on the able and devoted efforts of a great many people and this is a particularly appropriate time of year to express appreciation to those who serve Sir George so well.

The year 1962 was marked by the completion of our planning process for a fine new building which will enable us to provide places for more students in this day of unprecedented demand for university education. The new building will also make it possible to extend our academic expansion which has begun with the introduction of Honours degrees. The year 1962 will ultimately be more noted, I believe, for the development of our scholastic efforts than for our potential physical growth. The members of the many committees deliberating with regard to academic growth deserve our hearty gratitude.

In the spirit of the season it is now my privilege to extend to each member of faculty and staff, full-time and part-time, my very best wishes for joyful holiday times. It is also my sincere hope that each of you and your family will find in the coming year a full measure of happiness and continued forward progress in fulfilling your aspirations.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ALUMNI

The Board of Directors and staff of the Association of Alumni, extend to all the members of the Faculty, Administration and staff of the University, their sincere best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a very happy and satisfying 1963.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

It is with pleasure that I seize this opportunity of conveying my best wishes to my colleagues on both the teaching-staff and the administration for "a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year".

From my vantage point, it would seem to me that there is just cause for both merriment and happiness as the year draws to a close for it has been a year of growth, development and change. Wide-ranging planning is maturing and the efforts of those so involved will be bearing fruit in the near-future as these plans are implemented.

The year ahead will bring more challenges to all members of the staff but these will be met, I feel certain, in the same spirit of cooperation and dedication that has characterized the efforts of our "staff" in the past.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

It is a pleasure to announce to all staff-members that Professor Rachel C. Wasserman has recently been elected to the World Academy of Arts and Sciences (F.W.A.). I am certain that all members of the staff would wish to congratulate Dr. Wasserman on the distinction she has achieved and appreciate the honour that has been bestowed on her and this institution.

All staff-members will be pleased to learn that Serge Losic of the Department of Modern Languages has recently received his Doctorate from the University of Paris and should now be addressed respectfully as 'Doctor Losic'. The completion of his degree delayed his return for the beginning of the Fall term but his achievement has made his return a matter not only of personal satisfaction but a matter of pride for his Department and the University as a whole.

It has just recently been announced that Asst. Prof. Jonassohn of the Department of Sociology has been awarded, conjointly with Assoc. Prof. H. David Kirk of McGill University School of Social Work, "a grant in support of a three-year research project entitled 'Incidence and Etiology of Psychological Difficulties in Adopted Children'". This grant was made, in the amount of $50,600, by the 'Foundations Fund for Research in Psychiatry', an American organization. Certainly, congratulations are in order to him for this splendid award and for the opportunity and the challenge it presents to him and his colleague. It is to be hoped that we shall hear more of this anon.

Asst. Prof. Richard J. Sommer of the Department of English has just recently had an article entitled 'The Odyssey and Primitive Religion' published, in English, by the Norwegian Universities Press, Bergen - Oslo, 1962. It appears in a periodical put out by this Press devoted to articles of literary interest. His colleagues on staff will doubtless be pleased to learn of this publication and anxious to read it. The line will please form outside Prof. Compton's door for it is known that he has a copy of the periodical on hand.

COMMENTARY ON THE FALL TERM

On Organizational Structure.

Possibly the chief characteristic of the past three months - where have they gone? - beyond the usual routine of teaching and administration has been the phenomenal activity of the multiplicity of Committees which are functioning at the present time and in a wide variety of areas. As will be seen from the enclosed compendium, prepared by Asst. Dean O'Brien for general distribution to both full and part-time teaching-staff as well as administration, we now have seven Standing Committees and five Special Committees of Faculty Council, eight Divisional Committees, four Administrative Committees with five Committees and three Sub-Committees related to the University Committee on Development.

As if these were not enough, there are three more Committees functioning under the aegis of the Vice-Principal as well as two Committees related to the Association of Alumni. To top it off, there is one more Committee, i.e., the Athletic Council, the membership of which includes students, administration, teaching-staff, Board of Governors and Alumni.

Surely we are living in the era of 'Organization Man' and 'Government by Committee' to borrow two book-titles. Despite the seeming complexity of this structure, it has been working very smoothly, as the Principal observed in his message, and much praise is merited for those members of the staff who are involved in these processes.

It is stoutly to be denied that this structure exemplifies 'Parkinson's Law' for each of these Committees serves a specifically - useful and integrated function without overlapping the function of others. In subsequent issues of the Newsletter, an attempt will be made to present the terms of reference and the degree of progress being made by each of them or as many as possible of them.

It is suggested that staff-members should keep their copies of this compendium of Committees on file for future reference; as in baseball, 'you can't tell the players without a programme'.

Concerning the Special Convocation.

An event of major importance to the University community took place on Friday, October 19th, when a Special Convocation was held for the installation of our new Principal, Mr. Robert C. Rae. Those of you who attended will recall that he took this opportunity to pay well-merited tribute to his predecessor in office, Dr. Henry F. Hall, who retired from the Principalship on June 30th, 1962.

Re 'New Offices'.

This Fall term has been a transitional period for various members of the Administration as they have adjusting to the requirements of their new Offices.

Quite literally, members of the full-time staff have also been adjusting to their new offices. The new suite of offices on the 5th floor has been occupied since August and the consensus would seem to be that these offices are eminently more satisfactory than the previous offices in the Stanley Street building.

The alterations in the Annex resulted in a considerable increase in both classroom facilities and additional office-space for the large increase in numbers of the full-time staff. Approximately twenty-three new staff members were added this year with nearly every Department sharing in the increase.

Faculty Council Activities.

In addition to the usual routine of course changes and additions, Faculty Council approved the establishment of two new Honours degree programmes in English and Economics after thorough study of these proposals by the Honours Sub-Committee and recommendation to Faculty Council. These programmes subsequently received approval by the Board of Governors so that they will be in effect by the Summer Session, 1963, for Evening students and by September, 1963, for Day students.

Other changes approved by Faculty Council concerned Readmission and Supplemental regulations, the Summer Session and amendments to the Regulations Governing Honours Degree programmes. Details of these changes will be incorporated in the new Announcement which, it is hoped, will be available earlier this year.

The 21st member of Faculty Council was appointed in November in the person of Mr. Keith Crouch, the University Librarian. As one wag put it, Faculty Council has now 'come of age' to which another wag replied that this was not so for it has been 'aged' for some time and growing more so each year.

Two New Committees.

The Committee on Faculty Development, appointed and chaired by the Vice-Principal, and the Faculty Committee on the Organization of Cultural Activities, appointed by the Vice-Principal but chaired by Asst. Prof. Pinsky, Head of the Fine Arts Department, are two committees from which much may develop. Both of them are embarked on inquiries which, it is generally recognized, are long overdue. As tangible progress is made, staff-members will be kept informed. Unfortunately, though both have met several times since October, they are not yet in a position to make even an interim statement of progress made but may well be by the middle or end of the second term.

CONCERNING TWO REQUESTS

From the Executive Director of the Association of Alumni.

From time to time members of the Faculty and Administration hear from graduates of the University. The Alumni Office would be most grateful if you would check with them re added information for their files, postgrad degrees, change of address, etc., etc.

From the 'Desperate' Editor of the 'Newsletter'.

You will have noted the absence of articles, poems, witty jokes, etc. from the current issue. Despite tentative promises from various staff-members of an item for inclusion in this issue, nothing has materialized. Hence my plea for material to all members of the teaching and administrative staff. If this Newsletter is to continue, each member must consider seriously the possibility of making a contribution to it.

The range of suggestions re material is wide - articles of literary, scientific or cultural interest, book-reviews, poetry, etc. In addition, items of interest relevant to individual staff-members concerning travels, conferences, graduate or post-doctoral work, publications, etc., would be most welcome.

It is only fair to say that any prospect there may be of the possible establishment of a University Press for our institution may well depend upon the evidence of need for it as demonstrated by the volume and quality of the material submitted to the present publication. Even the prospect of issuing this Newsletter in a more attractive and durable form would have to be justified on the basis of a continuous flow of material pitched at the highest-possible level.

Therefore, if this medium of expression is not to degenerate into nothing but a series of 'communiques', it is most urgent that every member of this academic community give rein to his repressed desire to 'publish'.

A Word of Appreciation.

It would be unpardonable not to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the hard work and tenacity of purpose of the former editor of the Newsletter, Asst. Dean Magnus Flynn. His labours in this particular 'vineyard' were most appreciated and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to build still larger on the basis which he and his predecessor, Assoc. Prof. Wynne Francis, have established.